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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,657	09/15/2003	Thomas T. Hardt	200302618-2	9403

7590 07/18/2005
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
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EXAMINER

BUI, HUNG S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,657

Applicant(s)

HARDT ET AL.

Examiner

Hung S. Bui

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/15/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 8 depends upon claim 11, it appears that applicant intended claim 8 to depend upon claim 1. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 2, there is no antecedent basis for " the flexible spine." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 6-11 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grant et al. [US 6,501,020].

Regarding claims 1, 7, 9-10 and 16-17, Grant et al. disclose a harness assembly (figure 1) for supporting at least one flexible member (18), comprising a flexible longitudinal member (42) and a plurality of self-securing straps (44) secured to the longitudinal member with each of the plurality of straps being adapted to secure the harness to the at least one flexible member.

Regarding claims 2-3 and 18-20, Grant et al. disclose a first securing member adapted to secure the harness to movable device (22) and a second securing member adapted to secure the harness to a supporting member/stationary object (32, figure 3).

Regarding claim 6, Grant et al. disclose the straps adapted to securing the flexible member (figures 7-8).

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Regarding claim 8, Grant et al. disclose the at least one flexible member being at least one electrical cable (18, column 11, lines 15-50).

Regarding claim 11, as best understood, Grant et al. disclose the use of a plurality of harness members (18) secured to the flexible spine (figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-5, 12-15 and 21-24, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant et al. in view of Saxby et al. [US 6,326,547].

Regarding claims 4-5, Grant et al. disclose everything claimed except the harness including third and fourth securing members adapted to secure the harness to first and second supporting members mounted between the movable device and the stationary object.

Saxby et al. disclose a harness assembly (100) having a first securing member (218) securing the assembly to a movable device (104) and a second securing member (204) adapted to secure the harness to the first securing member, a third securing member (202) adapted to secure the harness to the second securing member and a fourth securing member (206) adapted to secure the harness to a stationary object (103, figure 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the harness securing method of Saxby for the harness assembly of Grant et al. in order to provide a collapsible flexible support structure.

Regarding claims 12-15, Saxby et al. disclose different harness support members axially displaced from each other [figure 2]. It is well known to duplicate support arm to support more things, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.* 193 USPQ 8.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a 3rd, 4th, at opposite end, to provide more arms and control to the harness support, because it is well known to duplicate parts.

Regarding claims 21-24, Grant et al. disclose everything claimed except the harness and harness support assembly being used with a rack.

Saxby et al. disclose the harness and harness support structure being used with a rack. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the harness support of Grant et al. could have been used with a rack in order to organize and support cables for use with rack mounted components.

Conclusion

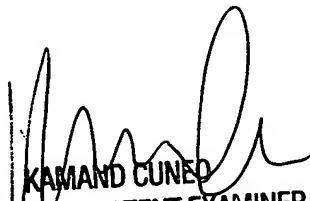
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

6/29/05
Hung Bui
Art unit 2841


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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